

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

~~The present invention relates to a~~ A magnetic resonance imaging apparatus ~~comprising~~ includes an RF coil system ~~comprising~~ with M RF coils (11-18) for detecting RF signals from a region of interest, M being an integer larger than 2, and N receiver channels (C1-C4) for receiving and processing the detected RF signals, N being an integer larger than 1 and smaller than M. ~~According to the invention at~~ At least two RF coils (12, 16; 14, 18) are combined for reception of RF signals of said RF coils with a single receiver channel. ~~The, wherein said~~ at least two RF coils are selected so as to provide maximum spatially varying coil sensitivities along the principal axis for coil sensitivity encoding. The proposed MRI apparatus provides an optimal solution enabling it to be used with the SENSE method. ~~The general idea is to have as much individuality as possible~~ is maximized along the preferred or actual sense reduction direction ~~and to feature as much as is~~ spatial distinctness ~~as possible~~ along the axes of primary clinical interest.

~~Fig. 3~~